

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HOMETOWN HERO—SHRAAVYA
PYDISETTI

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shraavya Pydisetti, a senior at Coppell High School who established the non-profit organization, Project Querencia. Project Querencia has completed over 170 projects and helped over 38,000 people since June 2020.

Shraavya wanted to make an impact within her community, and the COVID-19 pandemic allowed her to conceptualize a new way to make a difference. Shraavya brought a group of students together in Coppell and this action led to the creation of Project Querencia to help their community during those unwavering times. The initiative has provided more than 6,000 appreciation packages for essential workers, individuals in old age homes, janitors, lunch ladies, bus drivers, and more. The project has also hosted clothing and food drives, cooked meals for the homeless, crafted handmade cards for cancer patients, have made numerous donations, and many more community first initiatives. Shraavya's non-profit organization has expanded to over 250 members in 10 chapters.

I commend Shraavya, for going above and beyond for our community. Her selflessness and dedication do not go unnoticed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA PROSECUTOR
HOME RULE ACT OF 2023

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the District of Columbia Prosecutor Home Rule Act of 2023, which would give D.C. the authority to prosecute all crimes committed under its laws. Congress already lets D.C. write D.C. criminal laws, and lets D.C. enforce them against some violators. Congress should let D.C. enforce them against all violators. This bill would effectuate a 2002 advisory referendum, approved by 82 percent of D.C. voters, to create a local prosecutor's office.

Currently, the U.S. Attorney for D.C. has the authority to prosecute most D.C. crimes committed by adults and some by juveniles, while the D.C. Attorney General has the authority to prosecute most D.C. crimes committed by juveniles and some by adults. Giving D.C. the authority to prosecute all D.C. crimes would not only give D.C. residents a say in the enforcement of all their laws, it also would save

the federal government tens of millions of dollars a year by reducing the number of assistant U.S. attorneys in the U.S. Attorney's Office for D.C.

Last Congress, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform passed this bill as part of my District of Columbia Home Rule Expansion Act of 2022.

I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

RECOGNIZING REPRESENTATIVE
PANTELAKOS FOR 44 YEARS OF
SERVICE TO NEW HAMPSHIRE

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of former New Hampshire State Representative Laura Pantelakos and her 44 years of service to the Granite State. Since first taking office in 1978, Laura has been a tireless advocate for change in the city of Portsmouth and across the State of New Hampshire. Her compassion and willingness to engage with her constituents earned her the support of Rockingham County in election after election, and her commitment to bipartisan solutions helped usher in several decades of prolonged economic success for the region.

During her time in the New Hampshire House of Representatives, Laura witnessed tremendous change over the past four decades. In 2008, Laura was named Dean of the New Hampshire House of Representatives in recognition of her service as the longest-tenured member of that body; a distinction she proudly held until her retirement. Her tenacity and sharp legislative insight also saw her rise to the rank of Assistant Minority Leader, where she rallied her party to major legislative victories while always looking for opportunities to reach across the aisle. During her time in the House, Laura dedicated herself to leaving a positive imprint on our state, reforming our criminal justice system, and always looking out for children and families. Laura's penchant for helping others led her to dedicate her time to a number of causes outside of the State House, including her role as Chair of the Fire Commission for the City of Portsmouth and her involvement with the Seacoast African American Cultural Center. Laura was also a central figure in the Portsmouth City Delegation, now known as the Legislative Subcommittee, where her ten years of leadership saw major gains for the city.

Laura's leadership was always guided by her deep love for her children, grandchildren, and the constituents she proudly served for close to half of her life. As Laura begins a well-deserved retirement, I look forward to seeing what her next chapter has in store and

know that she will continue to inspire the next generation of leaders to carry on her legacy of service over self. On behalf of the residents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I thank Laura for embodying New Hampshire's highest values and wish her all the best in the years to come.

HONORING GLORIA OLIVEROS

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in honor of her more than 30 years of public service, I rise today to recognize Gloria Oliveros, whose unwavering dedication has had a deep impact on our community in South Florida and the constituents in my district.

A long-time resident of Miami, Florida, Gloria received her Associates Degree at Miami Dade College, later continuing her education at Florida International University where she successfully attained her Bachelor's in Public Administration. While furthering her education, Gloria simultaneously began her capacity for 6 years. After I was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, she continued to serve her community by taking on the position as Deputy District Director and Office Manager in my district office. From 2003 through 2018, Gloria executed her duties as Deputy District Director with enthusiasm, compassion, and hard work, proving herself an invaluable member of the team. Today, after decades of selfless dedication and repeatedly meeting the needs of constituents, Gloria has earned many promotions to ultimately become District Director.

I know that Floridians from every corner of our district have benefitted from the fruits of community driven leadership and the tireless efforts of Gloria Oliveros. For this and much more, I wish to express my gratitude on behalf of myself, our team, and our district for the years of service Gloria has given to the betterment of our community. I know that many of our constituents know firsthand that Gloria is not only hard-working and supremely competent, but she is also kind, honorable, and intensely loyal.

Mr. Speaker, as a lifelong public servant, a steadfast leader, and a dear friend, Gloria has proven time and time again her unwavering commitment to the district. She is a source of great pride to us all, including her husband, Michael and her children, Carlos, Taylor, Abigail, and Michael, Jr. It is truly a privilege to know and work with her, and I am grateful for the time that she has graciously given to improve our South Florida Community. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the service and accomplishments of this outstanding individual.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HOMETOWN HERO—ANNA SALTON
EISEN

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Anna Salton Eisen, a founding member of Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville. After the hostage situation at the synagogue, Anna became a champion for speaking out against antisemitism.

Anna has spoken across Texas to educate communities about the history of antisemitism. She is the daughter of 2 Holocaust survivors and has continually researched the Holocaust and its legacies. The attack at Congregation Beth Israel gave her the opportunity to use her knowledge of antisemitism and its historical context to make a difference in our community and communities across the nation. Anna will attend this year's White House Hanukkah Ceremony to be an advocate and representative of the Jewish Community in North Texas.

I commend Anna, for helping lead our community to recovery following the attack and for all she does to speak out against antisemitism.

**HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
SENATOR JIMMY HOLLEY**

HON. BARRY MOORE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the hard work and legacy of Alabama State Senator Jimmy Holley. His devoted service of 44 years in the Alabama Legislature has changed my home state and made a difference in the life of many Alabamians.

Born and raised in Elba, Alabama, Mr. Holley lives a remarkable life rooted in service and humility in his community. He is an American patriot who served in the U.S. National Guard and graduated from East Tennessee State University, with his Bachelor's and Master's degree. In Tennessee he met his wife Mary, and they are parents to 2 sons, John, and Jason.

A devout man of faith and member of the College Avenue Church of Christ in Enterprise, Jimmy spreads love and joy to all those around. My friend, Mr. Holley is loved by many in his hometown of Elba and by those in his district. He shows appreciation to the people of Coffee, Covington, Dale, and Pike Counties and serves his community without bounds.

As a mentor to other legislators, he has consistently shared his valued wisdom with mentees and colleagues. Many lawmakers treasure the experience and intelligence he has provided by his extensive knowledge of policy and proceedings.

Mr. Holley provided incredible insight as a member of the Children, Youth, and Human Services, Finance and Taxation General Fund, Reapportionment, Senate Rules, Transportation, and Veterans and Military Affairs Committees, as well as his leadership on the Governmental Affairs Committee as Chair.

I would like to congratulate Senator Holley on his well-deserved retirement and extend

deep gratitude for his diligence in public service. He is a joyous and loved citizen of Alabama's Second Congressional District that has created a remarkable legacy.

HONORING DONALD OVERCASH

HON. DAN BISHOP

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor Donald Overcash, the longest-serving EMS employee in Rowan County. Donald selflessly served North Carolina as a paramedic and first responder for 36 years. During his tenure, he pioneered the county's shift to modern paramedicine in the 1970s and 80s. In fact, Donald is the longest-serving Rowan County EMS employee, breaking the previous mark of 34 years. He also served his country for 8 years as a Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps.

Donald served North Carolinians in Rowan, Cabarrus, and Stanly County through many major weather events including Hurricane Hugo in 1989, the 1993 superstorm, known as the "Storm of the Century", and the North Carolina Ice Storm of 2002. He bravely served as a paramedic during the 2000 Lowes Motor Speedway Walkway Collapse and the 2008 Salisbury Millworks Fire. His leadership and service are greatly admired and will serve as an example for future first responders.

I thank Donald for his remarkable leadership and dedication to his fellow North Carolinians. From the people of North Carolina's 8th Congressional District, congratulations on a successful career. I wish him a long and happy retirement.

**RECOGNIZING SELF-HELP
ENTERPRISES**

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Self-Help Enterprises (SHE) for their dedicated work on behalf of families across the Central Valley.

Since its founding in 1965, Self-Help Enterprises has been critical in providing underserved and low-income families across the Central Valley with services like housing, infrastructure development, and drought relief. While their services have impacted the lives of over 65,000 people across the Valley, their work to provide drought relief to families has been truly remarkable.

Over the past two decades, California has experienced devastating drought conditions. This has not only had an impact on Central Valley farmers and producers but on families across the region—particularly low-income families. Through their Tanks and Hauled Water Program, SHE has worked tirelessly to provide water access and well maintenance to over 1,800 families across the nine counties in the San Joaquin Valley. Not only have they delivered over 50 million gallons of water to households and small communities, but they have also installed over 700 new temporary

tank systems to individual households, as well as several temporary Community tank installations.

The work done by Self-Help Enterprises has been important for so many of our neighbors throughout the Valley. For decades, Valley families have been forced to deal with uncertainty when it comes to accessing clean and reliable drinking water. Organizations like SHE and their Tanks and Hauled Water Program are critical to ensuring all families across the Valley, whether in a big city or a small rural community, have access to a clean and reliable water supply.

I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the incredible work of Self-Help Enterprises.

**HOMETOWN HERO—NICOLE
MAUCERE JACKSON**

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Nicole Maucere Jackson, founder of Fairy Godmothers. Her initiative is to provide widowed and single parents with presents during the holiday season.

Nicole's movement is to make these parents feel loved, embraced, and seen during the holiday's by providing them with presents from the Fairy Godmothers. Christmas of 2020 was Nicole's first being a widow after her husband, Craig, suffered a tragic car accident in July leaving her alone with her 2 children. She quickly realized the hardships of being a widow during Christmas morning, so she started Fairy Godmothers to bridge this gap and show support for those parents. Fairy Godmothers have helped over 760 parents since Nicole initiated this movement.

I commend Nicole, for going above and beyond for families in our community.

**HONORING STEVE FOSHEE ON HIS
RETIREMENT FROM TOMBIGBEE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Steve Foshee on his retirement from Tombigbee Electric Cooperative and to acknowledge the great contribution he has made to improving the lives of people not only in northwest Alabama, but across the State as well.

Mr. Steve Foshee is retiring after spending the past 25 years as president and CEO of the Tombigbee Electric Cooperative in Hamilton, Alabama. Tombigbee Electric Cooperative provides electricity to thousands of homes in Marion, Lamar, and Fayette Counties.

Steve was born in the 4th Congressional District in Marshall County and graduated from Douglas High School in Douglas, Alabama. He then went on to Auburn University where he received both a bachelor's and master's degree. He then began work for the Farm Credit System in Northwest Alabama in 1981 where

he served as regional vice president until 1987.

In 1987, Steve began his long career serving in the electric utility sector as he took the helm of Cullman Electric Cooperative in Cullman, Alabama. He served as the general manager there for over a decade.

In 1998, he began his long and highly successful career as president and CEO of Tombigbee Electric. In 2017, under his leadership and foresight, Steve led the effort in Tombigbee offering high speed internet services and created Tombigbee Communications. It was there that Steve took on double duty, also serving as its president and CEO.

Under Steve's guidance, Tombigbee Communications has truly become a regional and national leader in providing reliable, high-speed internet to thousands of rural homes under the name of Freedom Fiber. One of their slogans is, "speeds so fast, even big cities are jealous." This is all because of the great leadership and vision Steve Foshee had for providing this service to people, who for decades, have been cut off from service.

Steve has been married to his wife, Libby, for more than 40 years. They have two adult children, Josh and Caleb Foshee and two grandsons, Luke and Jack Foshee.

Again, I congratulate, as well as honor, Steve Foshee on his career and his leadership in the State of Alabama that has had such a positive impact on so many people. I wish him and his family all the best in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF DR. DANIEL HOLSENBECK

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding life and legacy of Dr. Daniel Holsenbeck, age 80, who passed away on December 5, 2022. Dr. Holsenbeck, who was widely known as "Dr. Dan" was senior vice president emeritus at the University of Central Florida (UCF), where he worked for over 35 years. Dr. Dan touched the lives of countless individuals and left a lasting impression on the Central Florida community.

Dr. Holsenbeck helped to foster deep relationships across the Central Florida community and across the State of Florida that propelled the university's rise in quality and reputation. He helped shape many of the big ideas that have transformed UCF into the place it is today, including championing the region's modeling and simulation industry and UCF's partnerships with the military. He was instrumental in securing state funding for UCF's main campus, the establishment of the College of Medicine, and the creation of the downtown Orlando UCF campus. As an instructor, he loved being in the classroom with students, helping to shape future public relations and government relations professionals.

Dr. Holsenbeck reported to five UCF presidents before retiring in December 2019. His impact on UCF and throughout Central Florida will be felt for generations. In 1985, he was hired as associate vice president of government relations. He was promoted to vice president in 1993 and senior vice president in 2014. He served as senior counsel to the

president in 2018 and 2019 and then was honored with the title of senior vice president emeritus.

Dr. Holsenbeck is credited for establishing the UCF Legislative Scholars program, which has been described as the "best program" of its kind in Florida's State Capitol. Created 19 years ago, the program enables students to augment their academic learning by working full time in legislators' offices during the annual Florida legislative session. Since the program's inception, 220 scholars have learned the "ins and outs" of Florida's legislative and public policy-making arena, learning directly from legislative staff, governmental agencies, and lobbying groups while gaining valuable governmental experience.

Dr. Holsenbeck also served UCF presidents in numerous public relations and advisory capacities, including managing University Economic Development and Defense Transition Services. A former captain in the U.S. Naval Reserve, the Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division named a Navy jet in his honor, in recognition of his dedication to growing the Modeling, Simulation and Training community.

Dr. Holsenbeck was director of basic enlisted mathematics for the U.S. Navy Nuclear Power School from 1967 through 1969. He served as the principal civilian advisor on college and university teaching and testing for the Chief of Naval Education and Training in Pensacola, Florida. In that capacity, he conducted teaching seminars for all NROTC Navy and Marine instructors from 1971 to 1998. As a drilling reservist, he held four commands in Orlando and Montgomery, Alabama.

Dr. Holsenbeck earned a Bachelor's in mathematics, with honors, from Auburn University, a Master's in education from Johns Hopkins University, and a Doctorate in higher education management systems from Florida State University. UCF awarded Dr. Holsenbeck an honorary Doctorate degree in 2019 in recognition of his distinguished service to the university and Central Florida, as well as the military.

Before coming to UCF, Dr. Holsenbeck was associate vice president for development and alumni affairs at the University of South Florida, the director of university relations at Auburn University, and vice chancellor for development at Auburn University at Montgomery.

Dr. Holsenbeck greatly appreciated the important role nonprofit organizations play in the community and volunteered his time generously on several boards. The Kids House of Seminole County was especially important to him for its dedication to prevent child abuse and provide support for child abuse victims and their families.

He was active in local and national civic and professional organizations, including the Central Florida Partnership, the Economic Development Commission of Mid-Florida, the board of directors of Visit Orlando, the Orange County R&D Authority (chairman, 1999 to 2000) and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. Dr. Dan served on the CASE National Board of Trustees and was chairman of CASE's National Commission on Government Relations. He was chairman of the CASE National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges and American Association of State Colleges and Universities Task Force on State Relations from 1996 to 1997. In 1999, Dr. Holsenbeck received the

highest national recognition for his state relations activities, the Swede Johnson Award sponsored by CASE, NASULGC and AASCU. He has served on the Boards of Kids House of Seminole, Work Force Central Florida, the UCF Foundation, the National Center for Simulation, the UCF Alumni Association, and the Board of Visitors for the FAMU College of Law.

Dr. Holsenbeck was blessed with a loving family whom he adored and admired. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Joyce Clappitt, a former UCF administrator, and his daughter, Amy Clappitt-Holsenbeck, a board-certified physician assistant and pediatric health specialist. He was preceded in death by his son Alan Clappitt-Holsenbeck.

Dr. Holsenbeck leaves behind a legacy of kindness, generosity, and inspiration. Dr. Dan's positive outlook on life touched the lives of so many and made our community a better place. I am saddened by the loss of such a valuable member of the community and extend my heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

HONORING THE HEROISM OF CAPTAIN E. ROYCE WILLIAMS, USN (RET.) OF ESCONDIDO

HON. DARRELL ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2023, the Secretary of the U.S. Navy will present Escondido, California resident and retired Navy Captain E. Royce Williams the Navy Cross—an appropriate recognition and award upgrade that was more than 70 years in the making. On November 18, 1952, Williams engaged and won the greatest overwater aerial dogfight ever—although for decades, it was officially declared by the Pentagon as having never happened.

Fortunately, the incredible story of Royce Williams is now being told—and the Forgotten Hero of the Forgotten War is forgotten no longer. This is history every American should know.

On that day in 1952, Captain Williams and 3 additional American pilots—flying the F9F-5 Panther—engaged 7 Soviet MiGs in a fierce dogfight over the Sea of Japan and the coast of North Korea. During the combat, 2 of the American planes were forced to disengage due to mechanical failures while the other pursued Williams' first downed enemy plane. Opting not to turn away and inevitably endanger his fellow pilots and the entire crew of his carrier, Williams instead turned and faced the remaining 6 Soviet aircraft alone.

Against all but impossible odds, and because of his skill, daring, and indomitable courage, only 2 MiGs returned to base. Williams shot down the others.

The stakes could not have been higher. If Williams had not prevailed, his fellow pilots and the sailors aboard his carrier could have been lost and the history of the Korean War and even the Cold War would be very different.

His plane sustained 263 holes and a foot-long gash—but the only injury Williams sustained was a bloody neck chafed by his gear.

He piloted his heavily damaged plane and returned to the carrier USS *Oriskany*, where, unable to slow his descent, he landed dead center of the runway but at 170 knots and miraculously engaged the number 3 wire.

Because of the implications of a “hot” engagement in 1952 between the United States and the Soviet Union, official records credited Williams with only a single kill, 1 damaged enemy, and he was awarded the Silver Star. The true account of his actions was classified, and Williams was asked—and agreed—to alter his story for the public and keep the true account secret.

Convinced this was a story that needed to be told, Operation Just Reward was formed by Royce Williams’ determined friends and fellow pilots: Doniphan B. Shelton, RADM, USN (Ret.), Greg “Chaser” Keithley, Peter Rolf Ohnstad, Tammy Sande, Ed “Dragon” Riley, Kim A. Merrill, Chuck Sweeney, Steve Lewandowski, Chris Yates, and Howard Dartner. I am honored to have been invited to join this campaign on behalf of history’s true account of America’s true Top Gun—and for Royce Williams to gain this recognition that he has not sought, but so richly deserves.

HOMETOWN HERO—TOM LANDIS

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Landis, the founder of Howdy Homemade Ice Cream in Dallas, Texas. Howdy Homemade was founded with the idea to create more jobs for individuals with special needs by uniting with delicious ice cream.

Howdy Homemade was created in Dallas, Texas in December of 2015. Tom founded his business with the purpose of giving the special needs communities meaningful employment opportunities in a positive environment. Tom gives people with intellectual or developmental disabilities confidence, structure, and a sense of pride by working at Howdy Homemade. Tom has since created over 168 jobs throughout the U.S. and is consistently giving individuals with special needs an outstanding employment opportunity in a reinforcing environment.

I commend Tom for going above and beyond for our community. His selflessness and dedication do not go unnoticed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION REAL ESTATE LEASING AUTHORITY REVOCATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Securities and Exchange Commission Real Estate Leasing Authority Revocation Act, which would revoke the real estate leasing

authority of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and direct the Government Accountability Office to update its 2016 report on independent leasing authority in the federal government. The House passed this bill last Congress.

Since the SEC was granted leasing authority in 1990, before I came to Congress, the SEC has consistently stumbled through leasing mistakes at great expense to taxpayers. It is time for Congress to end this fiasco and return the leasing authority to the General Services Administration (GSA), the federal government’s real estate arm, like other federal agencies.

When Congress exempted the SEC from GSA regulations and directives in 1990, it expressed its clear intent that “the authority granted to the Commission to lease its own office space directly will be exercised vigorously by the Commission to achieve actual cost savings and to increase the Commission’s productivity and efficiency.” (H.R. Conf. Rep. 101–924.) Over the past 30 years, none of that has come to fruition.

The SEC did not even establish a Leasing Branch until April 2009, and did not put into place any leasing policies or procedures until August 2010. Before that, in May 2005, the SEC disclosed that it had identified unbudgeted costs of approximately \$48 million attributable to misestimates and omissions of costs associated with the construction of its headquarters near Union Station. In 2007, after moving into its headquarters, the SEC shuffled its employees to different office spaces at a cost of over \$3 million without any cost-benefit analysis or justifiable rationale.

In the summer of 2010, the SEC’s Office of Administrative Services (OAS) conducted a deeply flawed and unsound analysis to justify the need for the SEC to lease 900,000 square feet of space at Constitution Center and to commit over \$500 million over 10 years, overestimating the amount of space needed by over 300 percent. In addition to this gross overestimation of space, OAS failed to provide complete and accurate information and prepared a faulty and backdated Justification and Approval after it had already signed the lease.

As a former chair and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, I was deeply involved in oversight of the SEC’s real estate activities in the District of Columbia after the agency engaged in this improper sole-source procurement of nearly one million square feet of leased space. We held two hearings on this subject in 2011. At the first hearing, titled “The Security and Exchange Commission’s \$500 Million Fleecing of America,” SEC Inspector General H. David Kotz testified that employees ignored the SEC chair’s explicit instructions and engaged in possible criminal violations in a sole-source procurement. He also supported stripping the SEC of leasing authority if the SEC did not undertake major reforms. I agreed with Inspector General Katz’s evaluation and introduced legislation to revoke the SEC’s leasing authority for the first time.

At the second hearing, titled “The Security and Exchange Commission’s \$500 Million Fleecing of America: Part Two,” SEC Chairwoman Mary L. Schapiro testified that “the SEC recognizes the benefits of having [GSA]

manage the Commission’s future lease acquisitions. Leasing is not part of the Commission’s core mission and we cannot allow it to impede that mission.” She then explained that the SEC would pare down its leasing program “solely to liaise with GSA.” This arrangement, in which GSA manages SEC leasing activities, was memorialized in a Memorandum of Understanding between GSA and the SEC on August 1, 2011.

Today, I have concerns that the SEC is going back on the commitment it made to Congress, which is why I am reintroducing this bill. In August 2016, GSA and the SEC entered into an Occupancy Agreement to authorize GSA to conduct the process for a new 15-year lease. In December 2016, GSA, with the approval of the SEC, submitted a prospectus to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for approximately 1,274,000 rentable square feet for the SEC. Congress approved this prospectus in 2018, and by July 2019, GSA had received final bids, resolved all protests and even selected a final bidder. A month later, in August 2019, the SEC canceled the Occupancy Agreement with GSA, citing concerns about the value of the purchase option that was part of the lease, concerns the SEC refused to document to Congress. The SEC effectively vetoed the entire procurement process despite not having the authority or funding mechanism to exercise the purchase option without GSA’s involvement. After a few more months of impasse, the SEC requested that GSA cancel the procurement and commence a new procurement process.

Finally, after much back and forth between the two agencies, GSA entered into a lease for a new SEC headquarters in September 2021. The SEC says it will continue to have GSA do its leasing in the future, but the SEC’s history of egregious leasing conduct, having squandered hundreds of millions of dollars, makes this bill still necessary.

These public blunders also risk undermining the reputation of GSA and the federal government among developers and building owners that participate in these lease procurements and ultimately driving up the costs of all GSA real estate procurements due to the threat of uncertainty. This also means that the SEC will continue to engage in short-term leases at a premium while the procurement process plays out again, instead of quickly transitioning to a more cost-effective long-term lease as planned. Congress created this confusion by granting the SEC leasing authority, and now Congress must fix it by revoking that authority.

The SEC’s mission is to protect investors; maintain fair, orderly, and efficient markets; and facilitate capital formation. GSA’s mission is to provide other civilian federal agencies with workspace and furnishings at best value to the taxpayer. As the SEC has demonstrated over three decades, it is incredibly inefficient, wasteful and redundant to have the SEC involved in the nuances of real estate decisions when GSA exists for that very reason. Like other federal agencies, the SEC would continue to have input and involvement in the decision-making process, but the ultimate real estate authority would lie with GSA, where it belongs.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE SECOND
STREET DAIRY QUEEN ON BEING
NAMED NUMBER ONE STORE IN
THE NATION

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Manchester Dairy Queen on Second Street for finishing 2022 as the highest earning Dairy Queen store in the country. Out of 4,353 locations, the store on Second Street stood out as the highest performing in the nation thanks to their invested leadership

and equally dedicated staff. This tremendous accomplishment is a testament to the store's commitment to the city of Manchester and the decades-long connections they've forged with local business owners and lovers of cold Blizzards.

Since the 1970s, the Dion family has been a mindful steward of the franchise and has expanded its presence across Southern New Hampshire. Despite their tremendous growth, the Dions always centered their business around the fundamental values of community outreach, integrity, and service with a smile. In the face of major recessions and a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic, the Dairy Queen on Second Street has continued to adapt and evolve into the thriving business it is today. As a fellow

restaurant owner, I have seen the challenges posed by COVID-19 in the industry and commend the Dion family for their can-do attitude which has seen them claim the number one spot in the nation for Dairy Queens.

I look forward to seeing all that the Second Street Dairy Queen accomplishes in the years to come, and I know that the citizens of Manchester will continue to show their unequivocal support for one of the area's most frequented stops for a quick bite and an ice-cold scoop. On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I commend the Dion family and their amazing staff for making the Second Street Dairy Queen the highest earning store in the nation, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.